



CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

24-HOUR REPORT

7 JANUARY 2022

(U) CALIFORNIA

(U) Santa Cruz – Homeland Security Raid Centers on Child-Pornography Investigation

(U) During a DHS search at a Lower Ocean neighborhood home early Wednesday, a Santa Cruz man was taken into custody in a child pornography-related investigation. Court records for the case, filed late last month were sealed this week, however, an online case description cites federal code for alleged crimes relating to material involving the sexual exploitation of minors. The Santa Cruz Police Department did not participate in the case's investigation and local authorities were assured the raid did not involve immigration status-related crimes.

SOURCE: 7 January 2022, [Santa Cruz Sentinel Mercury News](#)

(U) SOUTHWEST BORDER

(U) California – Border Patrol Agents Apprehend 26 Migrants From Freight Train

(U) El Centro – US Border Patrol (USBP) agents with the El Centro Sector apprehended 26 migrants aboard a freight train near a checkpoint outside of Niland on Tuesday morning. A train conductor notified agents working at the checkpoint that he observed a group of individuals attempting to circumvent the checkpoint aboard. Agents responded and encountered 10 migrants. Train was stopped by the Indio train yard where agents then encountered an additional 16 migrants. Welfare checks were conducted and agents transported them to the Centralized Processing Center for further evaluation.

SOURCE: 6 January 2022, [Holtville Tribune US CBP](#)

(U) NATIONAL

(U) Missouri – Chinese National Pleads Guilty to Economic Espionage Conspiracy

(U) St. Louis – Xiang Haitao, a Chinese national and former Missouri resident, plead guilty to conspiracy to commit economic espionage. Xiang was employed by Monsanto and its subsidiary, the Climate Corporation from 2008 to 2017 as an imaging scientist. After leaving his US employment in June 2017, Xiang attempted to travel to China where he worked for the Chinese Academy of Science's Institute of Soil Science. Federal officials conducted a search of Xiang and discovered an electronic device with copies of proprietary software. He faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a \$5M fine.

SOURCE: 6 January 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) Washington – Two With Alleged Ties to 'Boogaloo' Movement Indicted for Explosive Devices

(U) Spokane – Two Washington state men were indicted on federal charges this week for conspiring to build explosives to use against law enforcement. Daniel Anderson and Connor Goodman, self-described members of the "Verified Bois" whose members allegedly espouse the anti-government "boogaloo" ideology, each face two charges of conspiracy to make a destructive device and possession of a destructive device. The FBI worked with a confidential informant beginning in June 2021 to infiltrate the group. The Verified Bois regularly conducted training events, during which members practiced small unit tactics raids, firearms handling and manipulation, and survival skills.

SOURCE: 6 January 2022, [Seattle Times](#) [Court Listener](#)

(U) Pennsylvania – Man Pleads Guilty in Connection with Shooting of Democratic Party Headquarters

(U) Philadelphia – Anthony Francis Nero plead guilty to charges of sending threatening communications and cyberstalking. On 7 January 2021, Nero sent an electronic message to the Montgomery County Democratic Party (MCDP) that threatened “random acts of violence”. Days later, MCDP officials discovered that the front window to the office had been shot three times by a firearm. In February 2021, Nero admitted to the crimes. Ballistics tests confirmed that two spent rounds recovered from the office were fired by Nero’s .45 caliber pistol. Nero was arrested and charged in March 2021.

SOURCE: 5 January 2022, [US DOJ](#)

(U) New York – Man Arrested for Acting in United States as Agent of Egyptian Government

(U) Manhattan – Yesterday, authorities arrested Pierre Girgis on criminal charges for acting in the US as an agent of the Egyptian government without notifying the US Attorney General, as required by law. At the direction of Egyptian government officials, Girgis allegedly tracked and obtained information regarding political opponents of Egyptian president Abdel Fattah el-Sisi. As alleged, Girgis also leveraged his connections with local US law enforcement officers to collect non-public information, arranged benefits for Egyptian officials who were visiting Manhattan, and coordinated meetings between US and Egyptian law enforcement in the US, and arranged for Egyptian officials to attend police trainings.

SOURCE: 6 January 2022, [US DOJ](#) [ABC News](#)

(U) INTERNATIONAL

(U) Mexico – Ten Bodies Left in Car Outside State Governor's Office

(U) Mexico City – Mexican authorities have arrested two suspects after an SUV filled with 10 bodies was left outside the office of a Mexican state governor in a public square lit up with a Christmas tree and holiday decorations, officials reported. David Monreal, governor of the central state of Zacatecas, said the car contained bodies of people with apparent signs of beating and bruising and believes the suspects purposefully planted the bodies front of the palace. Government officials discovered the car after noting a suspicious vehicle driving in the area.

SOURCE: 6 January 2022, [Reuters](#)

(U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.

(U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.